

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) A method of transferring a digital data file comprising:
connecting a digital data player or a memory of the digital data player to a communication network via a first personal computer;
downloading a digital data file with an attached code segment from the communication network to the memory of the digital data player;
connecting the digital data player or the memory of the digital data player to a second personal computer, different than the first personal computer;
initiating an upload request to upload the digital data file from the memory of the digital data player to the second personal computer;
uploading software from the digital data player to the second personal computer;
reading the code segment attached to the digital data file using the uploaded software in the second personal computer; and
controlling whether or not the uploading of the digital data file is permitted to occur based upon the uploaded software in the second personal computer interpreting the code segment.

28-29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27, wherein the software that reads the code segment and controls whether or not the uploading of the digital data file is permitted is downloaded from the communication network to the memory of the digital data player along with the digital data file with the attached code.

31-32. (Cancelled)

33. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27, wherein the memory of the digital data player is removable.

34. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27, wherein the communication network is the Internet.

35. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27, wherein the software permits the uploading of the digital data file to the second personal computer, and changes the code segment attached to the digital data file.

36. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 35, wherein the changed code segment inhibits the digital data file from being uploaded to another computer at a later time.

37. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27, wherein the digital data file is encoded using a compression coding technique prescribed in MPEG 1, layer 3.

38. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27, wherein the code segment indicates a provider of the digital data file and is included in a header of the digital data file.

39. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27, wherein the digital data player is an MP3 player, and wherein the digital data file is a digital audio data file.

40. (Currently Amended) A method of transferring a digital data file comprising:
connecting a digital data player or a memory of the digital data player to a communication network via a vending machine;
downloading a digital data file with an attached code segment from the communication network to the memory of the digital data player;

connecting the digital data player or the memory of the digital data player to a personal computer, different than the vending machine;

initiating an upload request to upload the digital data file from the memory of the digital data player to the personal computer;

uploading software from the digital data player to the personal computer;

reading the code segment attached to the digital data file using the uploaded software in the personal computer; and

controlling whether or not the uploading of the digital data file is permitted to ~~occurred occur~~ based upon the uploaded software in the personal computer interpreting the code segment.

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 40, wherein the software that reads the code segment and controls whether or not the uploading of the digital data file is permitted is downloaded from the vending machine or communication network to the memory of the digital data player along with the digital data file with the attached code, ~~and wherein the software is uploaded from the digital data player to the personal computer.~~

43. (Cancelled)

44. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 40, wherein the software permits the uploading of the digital data file to the personal computer, and changes the code segment attached to the digital data file.

45. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 44, wherein the changed code segment inhibits the digital data file from being uploaded to another computer at a later time.

46. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 40, wherein the digital data file is encoded using a compression coding technique prescribed in MPEG 1, layer 3.

47. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 40, wherein the code segment indicates a provider of the digital data file and is included in a header of the digital data file.

48. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 40, wherein the digital data player is an MP3 player, and wherein the digital data file is a digital audio data file.